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“KING RON” SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT IN SHREVEPORT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

Indictments a result of Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation dubbed “King Ron”

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . One of the biggest drug traffickers in Shreveport history was sentenced in federal court, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today. **RONALD KING**, age 39, of Rowlett, Texas, was sentenced by United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. to **spend 400 months in prison (33 years and 4 months)**, for trafficking cocaine and money laundering. A total of 21 individuals have now been convicted of drug conspiracy and distribution charges stemming from a joint federal, state and local investigation code-named “King Ron” into a major drug trafficking and distribution conspiracy operating in Shreveport.

KING, convicted by a jury in Shreveport in March of all charges in the indictment (one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, one count of money laundering, and one count of forfeiture), had been distributing cocaine in Shreveport for approximately 20 years. Evidence at trial revealed that KING and his network of distributors were responsible for distributing millions of dollars worth of cocaine. KING used a small fleet of vehicles with hidden compartments to transport drug proceeds

from Shreveport back to the Dallas area where he and other co-conspirators used financial institutions to launder the proceeds. KING also invested some of his proceeds in Shreveport area real estate. As a result of this investigation, the government seized in excess of \$40,000 in cash, a Shreveport area home and several firearms.

This case was the result of an investigation conducted by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) consisting of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies into a major drug trafficking and distribution conspiracy operating in the Shreveport area. OCDETF is the nation's primary tool for disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations, targeting national and regional level drug trafficking organizations, and coordinating the necessary law enforcement entities and resources to disrupt or dismantle the targeted criminal organization and seize their assets.

A listing of each of the defendants who were associated with the Ronald King drug organization is attached to this release.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: "This investigation continues our efforts to strike at the heart of Shreveport's most prominent drug trafficking organizations. Although King Ron will likely spend the next 33 years of his life in prison, reducing the supply of illegal drugs to this community remains a major law enforcement priority. As drug traffickers like Ronald King have become more sophisticated, so have federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations. We pledge to use every tool of the 21st Century available to law enforcement to continue aggressive, offensive investigations to target, investigate, and prosecute drug trafficking organizations."

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

“Operation King Ron” was conducted by OCDETF and the FBI’s Northwest Louisiana Violent Crimes Task Force which includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Shreveport, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshal’s Service, Shreveport Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office, Bossier City Police Department, Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook was the lead prosecutor for this case.

LIST OF DEFENDANTS

NAME	AGE AND HOMETOWN	CHARGE	DATE OF SENTENCING	SENTENCE RECEIVED
Ronald King	Age 39 Dallas, TX	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine; criminal forfeiture	June 21, 2007	400 months in prison
Darius Johnson a/k/a "Grover"	Age 28 Garland, TX	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	May 17, 2007	60 months in prison
Shelby King	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	March 13, 2007	120 months in prison
Omar Carthren	Age 30 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	January 18, 2007	70 months in prison
Kenyoun Gilyard a/k/a "Pop"	Age 26 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine	March 22, 2007	312 months in prison
Lamale R. Gilyard	Age 27 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine	March 22, 2007	240 months in prison
Isaac Caldwell	Age 31 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	January 4, 2007	60 months in prison
Ravion Shelley	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine	December 21, 2006	120 months in prison
Demetrick Smith a/k/a "Meechie Ray"	Age 30 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine	February 21, 2007	120 months in prison
Jermelra Freeman a/k/a "Boo"	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	March 29, 2007	120 months in prison
Levon Howard a/k/a "Bug"	Age 24 Shreveport, LA	Possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	November 20, 2006	121 months in prison
Michael Sims a/k/a "Big Mike"	Age 31 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine	January 29, 2007	120 months in prison
Tiffany McCain	Age 24 Shreveport, LA	Making false declarations before a court	December 6, 2006	5 months in prison
Jerome Maxie	Age 30 Shreveport, LA	Possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	October 4, 2006	36 months probation
Antwuan Wilson	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	February 15, 2007	240 months in prison
Cedric Henderson, Jr.	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	March 22, 2007	100 months in prison

Antonio Ware	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	November 8, 2006	120 months in prison
Cortez Maxie	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Possession with intent to distribute cocaine	November 8, 2006	30 months in prison
Kevin Lee Johnson	Age 25 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; distribution of crack cocaine	December 4, 2006	360 months in prison
Clinton Kinsey	Age 26 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine	August 9, 2006	120 months in prison
Timothy Flakes	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine	December 14, 2006	262 months in prison

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